



## PUJA FOR ALL

**S**EVERAL places in the capital turn festive during the Durga Puja, the biggest festival of the Hindus. Almost every Hindu remains busy in celebration centring the Mandaps for the idols of Durga and her Kartik, Ganesha, Saraswati and Lakshmi. Navapatrika or the worship of natural forces begins the puja. Kumari puja, worship of the virgin as goddess, is held on the Ashtami or the eighth day of the lunar calendar. Music, dance and food also dominate the festival. It all ends with the immersion of the idol in water on the Dashami. The puja lifts up the secular spirit as the Hindus share joys with their neighbours irrespective of religion and creed.

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